



U.S. Department of Justice

**Stephen J. Murphy
United States Attorney
Eastern District of Michigan**

*Suite 2001
211 West Fort Street
Detroit, Michigan 48226-3277
Fax: (313) 226-3561*

For Immediate Release:

Contact: Gina Balaya (313) 226-9758
Richard Isaacson - DEA (313) 234-4310
Steve Moore - IRS (313) 234-2410

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EVENT: Guilty Plea

Defendant: Gwendolyn Browen

**Canton Woman Pleads Guilty to Money Laundering by Cashing in Winning
Lotto Tickets Purchased with Drug Proceeds**

Gwendolyn Browen, 37, of Canton, pleaded guilty to a money laundering charge and agreed to forfeit \$666,966 in cash and assets traceable to drug proceeds, announced United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy. Mr. Murphy was joined in the announcement by Special Agent in Charge Robert L. Corso, Drug Enforcement Administration and Special Agent in Charge Maurice Aouate, Internal Revenue Service Criminal Investigation.

According to court records, during 2002 through July 2005, Browen, the girlfriend of Terry Flenory, conspired to conceal the true ownership of Flenory's drug proceeds by redeeming winning State of Michigan lottery tickets, totaling over \$666,966. These winning lottery tickets were purchased at a higher than fair market value and given to Browen to redeem. With these proceeds, she purchased a home in Canton, Michigan, a 2004 Range Rover SUV, and a 2005 BMW. She also tried to hide the true source of the money by claiming the lottery winnings on her federal income tax returns, making it appear as if she had legitimate explainable income.

According to court records, Terry Flenory, Demetrius Flenory and at least fifty-six others operated a drug organization, at some point named the "Black Mafia Family" (BMF), which dealt in multi-kilo quantities of cocaine in the Detroit metropolitan area beginning in the early 1990's. By the mid 1990's, the organization extended into other parts of the country including Kentucky, Georgia, Missouri, California, and Texas. As part of the conspiracy, BMF would use vehicles equipped with traps and hidden compartments to conceal and transport the cash generated from the sale of cocaine.

United States Attorney Murphy said, "This office will vigorously prosecute persons who facilitate the crimes of drug dealers by concealing the illegal profits from narcotics sales."

Since 2000, law enforcement has seized approximately 500 kilograms of cocaine and approximately nineteen million dollars in assets, including bank accounts, cash, real property, jewelry and vehicles. The members of this organization, using the illegal proceeds of their narcotic sales, purchased and leased numerous luxury vehicles, acquired and sold real property and purchased jewelry while concealing the true source and nature of the funds involved in the transaction through false names and nominee purchasers.